MARVEL

#2

THE ULTIMATES²

EWING • FOREMAN • BROWN

The ultimate team has come together to solve the ultimate problems.
Blue Marvel. Spectrum. Black Panther. Captain Marvel. Ms. America.
They are...

THE ULTIMATES²

I AM *GALACTUS.*

ONCE I WAS THE DEVOURER OF WORLDS--NOW I AM THE LIFEBRINGER, SEEDER OF NEW PLANETS.

FIVE OF EARTH'S MOST POWERFUL HEROES--ITS ULTIMATE TEAM--AIDED ME IN BECOMING WHAT I AM. IN TURN, I HELPED THEM ON A MISSION TO GLIMPSE WHAT LIES OUTSIDE ALL THINGS.

ON THAT QUEST, I SPOKE TO ETERNITY, THE PERSONIFICATION OF ALL THAT EXISTS. THE ***TRUE*** ETERNITY, OF WHOM EACH UNIVERSE'S ETERNITY IS BUT ONE SMALL FACET.

HE WAS ***CHAINED.*** THE COSMOS ITSELF--***CAGED.***

HE GAVE ME A MISSION--TO LEARN THE TRUTH OF HIS IMPRISONMENT, AND WHAT FORCE LAY BEHIND IT.

TO ASSIST ME, I SENT MY NEWEST HERALD, CONNER SIMS--ONCE THE VILLAIN ANTI-MAN--TO BRING THE ULTIMATES TO MY WORLD-SHIP, TAA II.

BUT THE HIGHER POWERS OF THE COSMOS--IN PARTICULAR, MASTER ORDER AND LORD CHAOS--ARE UNHAPPY WITH MY EVOLUTION IN THE COSMIC HIERARCHY.

I FEAR THEY WILL DO ***ANYTHING*** TO MAKE ME AS I ONCE WAS...

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WHEN I WAS GROWING UP, WE HAD NOTHING.

THE *DEPRESSION* HIT BLACK FAMILIES HARD.

MY FATHER WENT FROM A JOB MOST WHITE FOLKS WOULDN'T *TOUCH* TO ONE THEY ACCUSED HIM OF *STEALING*.

HE DIDN'T HAVE THAT JOB LONG.

THERE WERE NO *PRESENTS* ON CHRISTMAS EVE. NO *TREE*, NO *TURKEY*.

NO *HOT CHOCOLATE*.

BUT MY FATHER WAS A MAN WITH A RICH IMAGINATION AND A GIFT FOR ORATORY.

AND EVERY YEAR, HE'D GATHER MY BROTHER AND ME UP ON HIS KNEE...

...AND TELL US HIS *STORIES*.

GHOST STORIES. TALES OF THE *SEASON*.

TALES OF *HAUNTED HOUSES* AND *RATTLING CHAINS*.

OF *MYSTERY* AND *MAGIC*.

THOSE STORIES IGNITED A LOVE OF THE *STRANGE* AND *UNCANNY* THAT I'VE NEVER LOST.

AND EVERY CHRISTMAS, THE MEMORIES *RETURN*.

MY FATHER'S *VOICE*, DEEP AND RICH AS SUNKEN TREASURE.

MY BROTHER'S *EYES*, WIDE AS MY OWN.

MY MOTHER'S *LAUGH*...

...AND THE *SNOW* FALLING QUIETLY OUTSIDE THE WINDOW.

TAA II.
WORLD-SHIP OF GALACTUS.
WANDERING THE FAR STARS.

SO.

ANYONE WANT TO TELL ME HOW IT CAN BE *SNOWING* IN *DEEP SPACE?*

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BEATS ME.

YOU'RE THE ONE WITH ALL THE *COSMIC EXPERIENCE,* MAC--EVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS ON YOUR TRAVELS?

NOT EVEN ONCE.

I'LL TELL YOU ONE THING, THOUGH-- *WHATEVER* THAT IS, IT'S NOT SNOW.

MONICA RAMBEAU.
CODENAME: "SPECTRUM."
LIVING ELECTROMAGNETIC ENERGY.

DR. ADAM BRASHEAR.
CODENAME: "BLUE MARVEL."
HUMAN ANTIMATTER REACTOR.

AMERICA CHAVEZ.
SPEED, STRENGTH, FLIGHT, PORTALS.

IT IS...*COLD,* THOUGH.

I MEAN, THIS IS JUST A *FEELING,* BUT...WELL...

IT'S NOTHING.

I DOUBT THAT. REMEMBER WHAT I SAID ABOUT YOUR *COSMIC AWARENESS?* YOU MAY BE PLUGGED INTO THIS ON A LEVEL WE *CAN'T* BE.

YOU SHOULD TRUST YOUR--

NO, ADAM, I MEAN IT'S *LITERALLY NOTHING.* TINY POCKETS OF EMPTINESS. A SOLID *ABSENCE.*

LIKE TINY FLECKS OF SOME OTHER *SPACE,* DRIFTING THROUGH OURS.

A UNIVERSE THAT ISN'T *THERE* ANYMORE...

EESH. I'M SCARING MYSELF.

WHERE'S GALACTUS WHEN YOU *NEED* HIM, RIGHT?

HE DIDN'T TELL YOU? HE AND SIMS HAD *PLACES* TO BE.

"THEY'VE GOT A *MEETING.*"

GALACTUS... WHAT AM I *SEEING...?*

CONNER SIMS.
CODENAME: "ANTI-MAN."
HERALD OF LIFE.

YOUR COSMIC SENSES HAVE BEEN *AUGMENTED* TO SPARE FURTHER DAMAGE TO YOUR *MIND,* CONNER SIMS.

YOU ARE NOW CAPABLE OF *FULLY PERCEIVING* REALITY AT THE *HIGHEST LEVEL--*

GALACTUS.
THE LIFEBRINGER.
SEEDER OF WORLDS.

--THE LEVEL OF *ASPECTS.*

WHERE SIGNIFIER AND SIGNIFIED BECOME *ONE.* WHERE METAPHOR AND REALITY *MEET.* WHERE *CONCEPTS* MAKE WAR.

NOW-- REMAIN *SILENT,* CONNER SIMS. BE *VIGILANT.*

MASTER ORDER.

LORD CHAOS.

THE SUPERFLOW.
HIGHER SPACE OF DREAMS AND VISIONS

THE LIVING TRIBUNAL.

"WATCH AND LEARN."

BEFORE ALL WAS, I AM. AFTER ALL ENDS, I AM. I LIVE, I DIE, I LIVE AGAIN.

I WEAR THREE FACES, BUT MY TRUE FACE IS EVER HIDDEN, AND MY TRUE NAME NO ONE KNOWS.

I AM THE LIVING TRIBUNAL OF THE EIGHTH COSMOS...

HEAR NOW MY JUDGMENT.

GALACTUS-- FORMERLY GALAN OF TAA AND THE SENTIENCE OF THE SIXTH INFINITY--

--YOU STAND ACCUSED OF DISTORTING THE GREAT BALANCE THAT MAINTAINS REALITY.

WHAT IS YOUR ANSWER?

NOT GUILTY.

LIES!

GALACTUS LIES! THE TRIBUNAL LIES! ALL OF THIS-- LIES AND CONSPIRACY!

BURN IT ALL! BURN IT TO THE GROUND IN COSMIC FIRE--

AHEM.

YOU...MUST *FORGIVE* MY BROTHER THIS OUTBURST, GREAT TRIBUNAL.

LORD CHAOS ACTS ONLY ACCORDING TO HIS *NATURE*-- AS DO *I*.

WHICH IS WHY I SOUGHT TO SEE GALACTUS' *ARROGANCE* DEALT WITH VIA *PROPER CHANNELS*...

YOU WERE SWIFT IN BRINGING IT TO MY ATTENTION, MASTER ORDER...

I EXIST *ONLY* TO SERVE THE *BALANCE*, GREAT TRIBUNAL--THE SAME BALANCE GALACTUS *THREATENS.*

AS *DEVOURER OF WORLDS*, HE SERVED A *VITAL ROLE* IN THE MULTIVERSE... BUT *NOW*...

NOW! HE *UNDOES* HIS WORK! *BUILDS* WHAT WAS *BROKEN!* BRINGS *LIFE* TO WHAT *DIED!*

GLEAMING *BLIGHT!* REVERSAL OF *SWEET DESTRUCTION!*

AND WHEN WE ATTEMPTED TO *REASON* WITH HIM ON THE MATTER--HE *ATTACKED* US. *PHYSICALLY.*

A THING... *UNHEARD OF.*

THAT INSULT *ALONE* CANNOT--*MUST NOT*--BE ALLOWED TO *STAND*, O GREAT TRIBUNAL.

WE ASK THAT EITHER GALACTUS BE *FORCED* TO RESUME HIS FORMER ROLE...

...OR BE *DESTROYED.*

AND A NEW AND MORE *OBEDIENT* DEVOURER SET IN HIS PLACE.

"ALL RIGHT. NEXT ORDER OF BUSINESS."

ALPHA FLIGHT SPACE STATION.
SECONDARY BRIEFING ROOM.

ACCORDING TO OUR LAST DATA EXCHANGE WITH THE *KRONANS*--THE *"STONE PEOPLE"*--THE *CHITAURI* ARE ON THE MOVE AGAIN.

A FLEET BRUSHED AGAINST THE KRONAN *OUTER SYSTEMS*--DEVASTATING AN ENTIRE *COLONY WORLD*, INCLUDING *MOONS*.

THAT'S A BIG FLEET...

IT IS. WE'RE TALKING TO OUR ALLIES IN THE FAR SECTORS AND GATHERING MORE INTEL ON THAT--YOU'LL ALL KNOW WHEN WE HAVE SOMETHING.

COL. CAROL DANVERS.
CODENAME: "CAPTAIN MARVEL."
HEAD OF THE ALPHA FLIGHT PROGRAM.
FLIGHT, STRENGTH, ENERGY POWERS.

HENRY PETER GYRICH.
SPECIAL WHITE HOUSE ENVOY TO ALPHA FLIGHT.

T'CHALLA OF WAKANDA.
ROYAL TITLE: "BLACK PANTHER."
ENHANCED SENSES, REFLEXES, GEOPOLITICS.

WHATEVER YOU THINK IS RIGHT, COLONEL. YOU ARE, AFTER ALL, IN CHARGE.

I'M JUST HAPPY TO BE HERE.

...

IS THAT *SARCASM*, HENRY?

MAYBE **ONCE**, SURE. WE'VE HAD OUR DIFFERENCES. BUT **NOW**?

YOU'RE ***AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY*** FOR THE ***HUMAN SPECIES***, COLONEL. OUR FACE IN OUTER SPACE.

AND THERE IS **NOBODY** IN THIS ROOM WHO DOUBTS YOUR FITNESS TO COMMAND THE MISSION.

I...

THANKS, HENRY. THAT MEANS A LOT COMING FROM YOU.

IT'S ***REASSURING*** TO...

...TO KNOW...

"NO.

"NOT EVEN FOR *YOU*, MAC."

THE ULTIMATES PROGRAM WAS ***SHUT DOWN*** AT THE ***HIGHEST LEVEL***, BECAUSE THE FIVE OF US COULDN'T BE ***TRUSTED*** TO BE IN A ***ROOM*** TOGETHER.

AND ***NOW***-- NOT ONLY DO YOU WANT US TO GO ***AGAINST*** THAT, TO WORK IN ***SECRET***--

--YOU WANT US TO WORK WITH ***GALACTUS*** TO DO IT?

WHAT DO YOU THINK IT'D DO TO ALPHA FLIGHT IF PEOPLE THOUGHT THE ***HEAD OF THE PROGRAM*** WAS ***COLLUDING*** WITH THE ***DEVOURER OF WORLDS***--

LIFEBRINGER.

I AM NOT AS I ***WAS***, NOR WILL I BE AGAIN.

YOU WERE ***THERE***, CAROL DANVERS. YOU ***TRIGGERED*** THE CHANGE IN ME.

YOU ***KNOW*** WHO I AM.

OH?

DO I?

HERE'S WHAT I KNOW, GALACTUS.

FOR BILLIONS OF YEARS, YOU'VE BEEN A FORCE OF NATURE. AN EARTHQUAKE. A FLOOD.

A COSMIC HURRICANE.

UH... CAROL...

YOU'RE BLOWING OUR WAY NOW? GREAT NEWS--ASSUMING THERE ARE NO UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES.

BUT I'VE HAD SOME HARD LESSONS IN UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES LATELY.

AND I'VE GOT TO ASK--

--CAN YOU HONESTLY TELL ME THE WIND CAN'T CHANGE AGAIN?

...

ALL RIGHT.

YOU *ALL* HAVE ALPHA FLIGHT'S NUMBER. BRING ME *SOLID INTEL* ON THIS-- THIS *CAGE* OR WHATEVER--

--BRING IT THROUGH THE *PROPER CHANNELS*, AND I'LL DO WHAT I CAN.

BUT A *SECRET TEAM?* HERALDS OF GALACTUS? I *CANNOT* BE PART OF THAT.

AND AS FOR *YOU*--

DANVERS.

THIS IS THE *WORK.*

I'VE BEEN DOING THIS SINCE I WAS *SIX*, AND I AM *TELLING* YOU. *THIS IS THE WORK.*

YOU SAID IF I EVER *NEEDED* YOU...IF I NEEDED *HELP*...I SHOULD *CALL.*

MAC...

AND THIS IS ME, RIGHT HERE, SAYING IT OUT LOUD. *I. NEED. HELP.*

I NEED *THE ULTIMATES.*

ALL OF US.

...

ALL RIGHT, MAC.

GIVE THE WORD AND I'LL BE THERE.

"BUT JUST MAKE SURE YOU *REALLY* NEED IT."

COLONEL?

SOMETHING WRONG?

...I'VE...JUST REMEMBERED AN *URGENT APPOINTMENT.*

APOLOGIES. I NEED TO CUT THIS SHORT.

THESE THINGS **HAPPEN,** *COLONEL.*

WHILE YOU'RE **GONE,** *MAYBE THE* **REST** *OF US COULD CROSS-CORRELATE OUR RESPECTIVE* **ALIEN SIGHTINGS,** *GET A JUMP THERE--*

I'M AFRAID I MUST **ALSO** *DEPART, MY FRIENDS.*

MATTERS OF STATE.

OKAY. ANYONE **ELSE** *WANT TO TAKE A BREATHER? COFFEE BREAK?*

PHILIP NELSON VOGT.
THE MAN IN THE SHADOWS.
NSA OPERATIVE TASKED WITH MONITORING THE EX-ULTIMATES.

JUST **THOSE TWO,** *HUH?*

ALL RIGHT. LET'S MOVE ON...

YOU KNOW HE'S GOING TO BE *SUSPICIOUS*, RIGHT?

GYRICH? HE HAS LITTLE REASON TO BE.

I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT HENRY GYRICH. I'M TALKING ABOUT THE *OTHER* ONE--WHITE HAIR, GLASSES, DIDN'T SAY MUCH. *NSA*, I THINK.

WHAT WAS HIS NAME? *VOIGHT*, OR...

...WAIT.

HOW CAN IT BE SNOWING IN SPACE...?

NNN... NOTHING...

NOTHING DIES...

CAROL. IT GOT IN. *RUN.*

LIKE HELL.

T'CHALLA-- ON MY MARK--

MARK!

NO-- NOTHING--

--DDIIEEAARRGH!

LOT OF PUNCH IN THOSE *ENERGY DAGGERS*...

I SET THEM TO A FREQUENCY THAT...*RESONATES* WITH YOUR OWN, COLONEL.

OH?

LEARNING MY *WEAKNESSES?*

LEARNING HOW TO BETTER WORK *TOGETHER*, COLONEL.

AFTER ALL...WE *ARE* A *TEAM.*

...

HE'S PULLING HIMSELF BACK TOGETHER.

BE *READY.*

ADAM-- *MONICA--*

WE'RE ON IT. I'LL TAKE *POINT.*

DIDN'T YOU ONCE TELL ME VIOLENCE DOESN'T *SOLVE* ANYTHING?

OH, THIS ISN'T *VIOLENCE,* AMERICA.

THIS IS A LITTLE MORE *AMBITIOUS* THAN THAT.

SEE, BLASTING ENERGY IS ONE THING. *CASTING* IT--IN A SHELL, A *BUBBLE*, TO *TRAP* AN ENEMY--

--TAKES CONSIDERABLY MORE FINESSE.

BUT IF I DO THIS RIGHT...

...I CAN *CONTAIN* THIS... LIVING *VOID*, OR WHATEVER IT IS. EVEN *STABILIZE* IT.

AT LEAST LONG ENOUGH TO HEAR WHAT IT HAS TO *SAY*.

HOW ABOUT IT, FRIEND? 'TIS THE *SEASON*.

A TIME OF *GOODWILL*. OF MYSTERIES, MAGIC...AND *STORIES*.

WHY NOT TELL ME *YOURS*?

WWUHH...

WUNNNSSS...

ONCE.

UPON A TIME...

....EVERYTHING DIED.

I WAS THE SHAPER OF WORLDS. AN OMNIPOTENT BEING. CURSED WITH THE URGE TO CREATE--BUT WITH NO IMAGINATION TO GUIDE ME.

BUT WHEN ALL WAS LOST, EVEN I SAW THE NEED TO START ANEW.

I GAVE UP MY SUBSTANCE--MY POWER, MYSELF--TO REMAKE A SINGLE UNIVERSE...

...THROUGH MY OWN HERALD, GOLDEN GLORIAN, AND THROUGH THE DREAMS OF NORRIN RADD AND DAWN GREENWOOD.

BUT I HAD ACTED WITHOUT FAITH IN THE WHEEL OF TIME, THAT TURNS TO TURN AGAIN.

ETERNITY WAS REBORN. THE SEVENTH OMNIVERSE BECAME THE EIGHTH.

AND I DIED.

BETRAYED BY GLORIAN GOLD-AND-GOOD, I FELL TO OBLIVION...

AND IN A SINGLE MOMENT THAT WAS ALL MOMENTS... THE MOMENT THE WHEEL TURNED...

I SAW

WHAT LAY

BEYOND.

I LEARNED THE SECRET!

THE SECRET OF THE ONE WHO IS ONE! AND MORE!

I SAW THE OTHERS!

ADAM! HE'S BREAKING OUT!

NOT ON MY WATCH!

MON-- LIKE WE PRACTICED!

SURE. *BRAIN ELECTRICITY.* TRIGGER THE RIGHT *NEUROTRANSMITTERS--*

--REGULATE YOUR *DOPAMINE*, YOUR *SEROTONIN--*

--AND GIVE ME THE *MENTAL BOOST* I NEED TO *HOLD* HIM.

I'LL FEEL IT IN THE *MORNING--*

--BUT, *FRANKLY*, I CAN STAND A LITTLE--

--*PAIN--*

--IF IT GETS THE *JOB* DONE.

LET'S JUST *REINFORCE* THIS A LITTLE...

INCIDENTALLY, THIS STORY OF EVERYTHING *DYING* AND *STARTING AGAIN*... I'VE *THEORIZED* ABOUT THAT, BUT...

YEAH. WE PRETTY MUCH *LOST* THE *ENTIRE MULTIVERSE.*

LONG STORY.

WELL.

'TIS THE *SEASON.*

PERHAPS NOW IS NOT THE TIME.

YOU HOLD A *GOD* IN YOUR HAND, DR. BRASHEAR. THE *SHAPER OF WORLDS*-- AN ALIEN *COSMIC CUBE* COME TO LIFE.

I AM *IMPRESSED*... BUT...

CAN I KEEP IT *UP?*

AS LONG AS I HAVE TO. THIS *ISN'T* THE SHAPER, T'CHALLA.

IT'S HIS *GHOST*--AN *ECHO* OF HIS FORMER SELF.

A LAST DESPERATE ATTEMPT TO CARRY A *MESSAGE*...

I *SAW* THEM! ON THE *FAR SHORE!* SO VAST-- EVEN I COULD NOT COMPREHEND--

I CAME BACK FROM DEATH TO *WARN* HIM!

EVERYTHING LIVES! DON'T YOU SEE WHAT THAT *MEANS?*

EVERYTHING LIVES--SO NOTHING TRULY *DIES!*

AND...AND IF *NOTHING* DIES...THEN THEY ARE STILL... STILL...

FIND HIM!

FIND HIM AND WARN HIM!

"*FIND HIM*"?

THE MESSAGE WASN'T FOR US...

RIGHT. THE SHAPER'S GHOST DIDN'T COME FOR THE *ULTIMATES.*

IT CAME TO HAUNT *TAA II.*

"IT CAME FOR..."

GALACTUS.

I HAVE HEARD THE ARGUMENTS AS PRESENTED.

I JUDGE THEM...

...IRRELEVANT. PROCEED AS YOU ARE.

BUT, YOUR HONOR--THE BALANCE--

A NEW BALANCE...

...FOR A NEW COSMOS.

WHAT WAS IS OVER. WHAT WILL BE HAS YET TO BECOME.

UNTIL MORE IS KNOWN...I CAN SET NO PRECEDENT.

THE POWERS WILL FORM AND FALL AS THEY WILL.

SO...THE COSMIC HIERARCHY IS *STILL* BEING FORMED IN THIS NEW REALITY?

A NEW *ORDER?* NEW *RULES?*

IT IS AS I SAID.

I... SEE.

THANK YOU, O GREAT TRIBUNAL. *SINCERELY*--THIS HAS BEEN *MOST* HELPFUL.

BROTHER?

KILL HIM.

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS THE ULTIMATES² IN...

AND TO ALL A GOOD NIGHT

THE ULTI-MAILS

WRITE TO US AT MHEROES@MARVEL.COM (MARK "OKAY TO PRINT")

Hello, Ulti-Mates Squared! Al Ewing here, back on letters page duties. As I type this, ULTIMATES2 #1 has yet to come out, but we've got some nice letters from people about the previous "season" that make me feel much better about everything. If you've got a letter for us, send it to mheroes@marvel.com, mark it "OKAY TO PRINT" and then we'll print the best!

Just learned from reading one of the emails and your response that Ultimates' will end at issue #12 but "restart" with another version of ULTIMATES. Hopefully it'll be well done as this one was.

I really appreciate the Ultimates' multi-cultural collaboration and the no hierarchy/no monarchy aspect of the team, even though Colonel Danvers keeps bossing people around. I liked that Chavez chin-checked her in issue #10.

Lastly, I love the artwork by Kenneth Rocafort and Dan Brown, not to mention the lettering of Joe Sabino. And the storyline and dialogue by Al Ewing is thorough as well. This and BLACK PANTHER have been my favorite reads this year. Great visual and literary content=dope combination.

Thanks for putting out a consistently excellent product.

Brian Ka'im Bey

Thank you, Brian! Hopefully this new storyline meets with your approval--I'm loving the art from Travel, and I'm pretty sure everyone else will too, especially once we start kicking into high gear.

Hi,

I don't understand why you are canceling this book with issue #12, then starting a new book again? Why don't you guys just continue the book with issue #13 and continue until it finally hits # 100? Just wondering. Anyway, love the book and the members. I am not a fan of Captain Marvel in the CIVIL WAR II events that are going on. I guess I would like to know more facts before I choose either side on the matter. That's where I miss Reed Richards. The man was a super genius and probably would have figured out more about the Inhuman Ulysses' powers. I miss the team of The Fantastic Four. I am enjoying seeing The Human Torch as a member of The Avengers and in the pages of The Inhumans too. Seeing a more mature version of him in those books is really great. I like this mature Human Torch very much.

I would like to see The Ultimates meet other interesting characters like The Eternals, Princess Namora, The Squadron Supreme, The Starjammers and The Clandestine.

King Jason

Hi, your Majesty! I guess the answer to your opening question is a mixture of necessity and possibility. On the one hand, a sales bump is useful in terms of getting to the end of the story I'm hoping to tell in this book. On the other hand...ULTIMATES is a book for experimenting. So there's a degree of experiment here--this isn't quite a relaunch, but it's not a clean continuation either. We've been consistently open about this being a true second season, a closed arc of (hopefully) 12-13 issues, much like the original ULTIMATES 2 back in the day. We'll see how it plays out and then, once this arc comes to a close--in cosmic, cataclysmic fashion--we'll figure out how to continue from there. Hope you stick around.

Dear Unparalleled Ultimates Crew,

First off, I just want to say that, aside from one other exception, I've never wanted or needed to write fan mail to anybody, even the multi-media juggernaut that is the comics industry. However, the utterly brilliant (like Stephen King-level brilliant, to be exact) comics virtuoso Al Ewing has inspired me to put digital ink on pixelated paper and write this letter.

THE ULTIMATES, as well as NEW AVENGERS, LOKI: AGENT OF ASGARD and CONTEST OF CHAMPIONS have all been some of the best comics I've read in my entire life, almost all of them in one way or another tickling my philosophical funny bone and leaving me pondering about the concepts of change, importance, the universe and anything and everything even as I close my eyes, dreaming of the possibilities. And now, as I finish reading chapter 12 of THE ULTIMATES, the promise of finally learning what has become of Marvel's Cosmic Beings since SECRET WARS (2015) has left me frantically typing down my thoughts to you in order to convey my hunger for answers. What has happened to The Living Tribunal? Who will join--and oppose--Galactus in his mission to protect the Marvel Universe? (Multiverse?) What have the other personifications, cosmic powers and interstellar heroes/villains been doing all this time? Will we ever see The One Above All (The Living Tribunal's boss, not the Celestial) again?

I'm hopeful that at least some of my questions will be answered once ULTIMATES^2 hits the shelves, and like you, while I'll very much miss Kenneth Rocafort's art, I'll also be excited to see the kinds of images Travel Foreman will draw for us next, since his I feel that his art style (like the robots he drew in Spider-Man's CIVIL WAR II tie-in) will work great with the abstract and psychedelic tone of this series. I'll keep things short (yes, this is short for me) so that I actually have a shot at getting into the letters page. Keep being the creative dreamer that you are, Al Ewing, and keep being awesome, everyone at Marvel! PLUS ULTRA!!!

P.S. Try checking out some of us fans' Marvelous fanfictions once in a while, 'cause there's always a few diamonds in the rough out there, and everybody loves to read a good story.

Sincerely,
JS Cronic

Thanks so much, JS! To answer your last point--there's a self-imposed rule amongst a lot of writers that we never read fanfic. Essentially, if I come up with an idea, and there's a fanfic out there with the same idea that I've never read, well, that's great minds thinking alike. If I've read the fanfic and then I put that exact same idea into the book, that's stealing. So what happens if a writer has a great idea, and then, during their fanfic break, finds the same idea...is that they can't use the idea. So a great idea, that that fanfic writer might have wanted to see a version of in print, will now not happen--at least not until a new writer drops by, at which point the entire situation might have changed for the characters involved.

So that's why I don't read fanfic...for now. When I retire from super-comics, I'm going to have a BINGE.

Whew, I spent so much time on that I don't have room to answer your other questions. Sorry! Anyway, that's all for now, Ulti-Mates. Happy Holidays, and I'll see you again next month for more cosmic thrills--as Chaos and Order get rough, and Phil Vogt gets suspicious...

ADDITIONAL READING:

FOR MORE ON THE SHAPER'S FATE DURING SECRET WARS, CHECK OUT *SILVER SURFER #13-15*, AND TO WITNESS GALACTUS' (PUNCHY) EARLIER CONFRONTATION WITH CHAOS AND ORDER, READ *ULTIMATES #6*. ALL ARE AVAILABLE DIGITALLY ON COMICSTORE.MARVEL.COM.

NEXT:

ZONE